

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, MILI, EAID

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR HEITMANN'S CALL ON ASSISTANT

SECRETARY ROGERS

1. AMBASSADOR HEITMANN, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS THREE MILITARY ATTACHES AND MINISTER COUNSELOR GUZMAN, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS JANUARY 21. PRINCIPAL TOPIC WAS GOC CONCERN OVER THE DELAY IN DELIVERY OF MILITARY PURCHASES AND POSSIBLE CUTOFF OF MILITARY SPARE PARTS SALES.

2. HEITMANN EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES CHILE IS FACING. HE SAID THE LOW PRICE OF COPPER IS HAVING A VERY ADVERSE EFFECT ON CHILE'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS NECESSITATING ADDITIONAL EXTERNAL LOANS, MANY OF WHICH HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED TO THE OAS (SIC, PROBABLY CIAP) BUT HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING.

3. HE THEN REFERRED TO THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SPECIFICALLY HUMAN RIGHTS, SAYING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS WELL ON ITS WAY TO SOLVING THIS ISSUE. HE SAID THAT THE RELEASE OF ALMEYDA AND ASSOCIATES PLUS THE LIST OF 200, INCLUDING LAURA ALLENDE, AND MANY MEMBERS OF THE MIR, WHICH

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THE GOC HAS OFFERED TO RELEASE TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

ARE ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM. A NEW STUMBLING BLOCK HAS ARISEN, HOWEVER, INVOLVING DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING COUNTRIES THAT WILL ACCEPT CHILEAN

DETAINEES. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD SOON BE OVERCOME.

4. HEITMANN EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE ATTENTION AND TREATMENT GIVEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO THE PROBLEM OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, HE SAID, YESTERDAY HE HEARD THAT SPARE PARTS ORDERS FOR THE NAVY THAT HAD BEEN PLACED AFTER JUNE 30, 1974 WERE BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING AN INTERPRETATION OF THE LAW BY UNDER SECRETARY MAW. ADMIRAL PAREDES ADDED THAT THE OFFICE OF THE CNO INFORMED HIM BY PHONE THAT THIS WAS A "PRECAUTIONARY" MEASURE.

5. ROGERS SAID HE WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR OF THIS ACTION AND WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH SECRETARY MAW WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE FAR EAST. HEITMANN EXPLAINED THE PARALYZING EFFECT THIS ACTION HAD ON ALL THREE SERVICES, RENDERING HIS COUNTRY MORE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK. ROGERS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION. HEITMANN SAID HE HAD SPOKEN TO CONGRESSMEN ABOUT THE PROBLEM AND FELT THAT THERE MIGHT BE ENOUGH OF A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TO PERMIT AN INTERPRETATION OF THE BAN THAT WOULD ALLOW THE SALE OF SPARE PARTS. ROGERS SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO VIEW THE PROBLEM WITH A LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE. HE DID NOT WANT TO INTERPRET OR TAKE ACTIONS NOW WHICH LATER MIGHT CAUSE RETALIATION. HEITMANN AGREED.

6. HEITMANN REFERRED TO THE GOC'S PLEASURE IN LEARNING OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INTENTION TO VISIT CHILE AND WAS ANXIOUS TO KNOW THE KIND OF PROGRAM THAT SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR HIM. ROGERS SAID THE SECRETARY HAD EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SEE SOMETHING OF SANTIAGO RATHER THAN SPEND ALL OF HIS SHORT STAY IN MEETINGS. HE SUGGESTED ONE OR TWO SMALL MEETINGS AND THEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND LEARN ABOUT THE COUNTRY. HEITMANN SAID HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT FOR THE SECRETARY TO GET FIRSTHAND IMPRESSIONS AND ASKED WHETHER HE'D LIKE TO MEET WITH PEOPLE CONNECTED

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WITH LABOR GROUPS, MINING, AGRICULTURE OR HEALTH. ROGERS REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE DESIRABLE.

7. GUZMAN SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO TOLD HIM THAT A MEMBER OF CONGRESS MIGHT ACCOMPANY THE SECRETARY. ROGERS REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK SO AND THAT HE MIGHT BE THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE OFFICER ACCOMPANYING THE SECRETARY; WITH PERHAPS ANOTHER.

8. HEITMANN SAID HE WANTED TO INVITE ROGERS AND MEMBERS OF THE POLICY PLANNING GROUP WHO HAD VISITED CHILE TO LUNCH AT THE EMBASSY TO REVIEW WITH THEM THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THE TRIP. ROGERS SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO ATTEND AND WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED.

9. HEITMANN SAID HE HAD WRITTEN TO THE SECRETARY TO INVITE HIM TO A DINNER OR A LUNCH BEFORE GOING TO CHILE. ROGERS THANKED HIM ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY. HE SAID THAT THE TIMING OF THE TRIP MAY HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED, DEPENDING ON WHETHER A TRIP TO THE MID-EAST MIGHT BE NECESSARY. ROGERS SAID HE WOULD KEEP HEITMANN INFORMED. KISSINGER

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